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Message Text

SECRET

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46
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 ACDE-00

/031 W
---------- 007461
O R 221522Z FEB 74
FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 1159

EXDIS/SALT

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON FEBRUARY 22 MEETING (SALT TWO - 373)

1. TODAY WAS SOVIET DELEGATION'S FBS DAY. FROM SEMENOV'S STATEMENT (HE OPENED TODAY) ON COMPOSITION OF STRATEGIC FORCES IN A PERMANENT AGREEMENT ON THROUGH MY PRIVATE TALK WITH HIM AND OTHER PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, THEME WAS NECESSITY FOR INCLUDING FBS. WHILE THEY HAD NO NEW ARGUMENTS AND DID NOT TODAY SPECIFICALLY RENEW DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL, SEMENOV TOLD ME THEY ARE GOING TO CONTINUE ON SUBJECT.

2. MY STATEMENT ON EQUAL AGGREGATES FOR CENTRAL SYSTEMS AND REDUCTIONS WITH ITS RATIONALE FOR CONFINING AGGREGATES TO ICBM'S, SLBM'S AND HEAVY BOMBERS, WITHOUT EVER SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING FBS, FITTED IN WELL AS AN INDIRECT REBUTTAL TO SEMENOV'S STATEMENT.

3. IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATION I TOLD SEMENOV THAT I WAS GOING TO BE DEALING WITH ICBM THROW-WEIGHT AND MIRV'S AT NEXT MEETING AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER WITH VERIFICATION. I SAID
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THESE WERE COMPLEX SUBJECTS TO WHICH WE HAD GIVEN MUCH

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THOUGHT AND MY HOPE AND OBJECTIVE WERE THAT WHETHER THEY AGREED
OR NOT (AND I DID NOT EXPECT ANY IMMEDIATE AGREEMENT FROM THEM)
THAT SOVIET DELEGATION, AND THROUGH THEM MOSCOW, COULD OBTAIN
A GENUINE AND FULL UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE WERE SAYING, SO THAT
THE POSITIONS THEY WOULD TAKE WOULD NOT BE BASED UPON ANY
PARTIAL OR WRONG UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION. TO THIS END
I URGED THAT WITHOUT NECESSARILY THEREBY IMPLYING AGREEMENT WITH
US, HE AND SOVIET DELEGATION ASK QUESTIONS AND SEEK WHATEVER
CLARIFICATIONS THEY FELT WOULD BE HELPFUL, SO THAT WE COULD
ENGAGE IN A GENUINE DIALOGUE DURING THE NEXT FEW VERY IMPORTANT
WEEKS. I SUGGESTED THAT WEPPERHAPS TRY TO MAKE OUR MEETINGS
A LITTLE LESS FORMAL BY ENCOURAGING EXTEMPORANEOUS BILATERAL
DIALOGUE ACROSS THE TABLE BETWEEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
DELEGATIONS. HE WAS RECEPTIVE AND SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS
WITH HIS DELEGATION AND LET ME HAVE HIS VIEWS ON HOW WE COULD
BEST PROCEED. ALSO TO GIVE MOSCOW A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF
BASIS FOR OUR POSITION, HE URGED THAT I EXPAND ON OUR RATIONALE
ON FBS. I SAID I WOULD CONSIDER HOW I COULD DO SO. JOHNSON

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